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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/681,762	06/01/2001	Sean M. McCullough	VIGN 1230-1	7625
44654	7590	04/11/2006	EXAMINER	
SPRINKLE IP LAW GROUP 1301 W. 25TH STREET SUITE 408 AUSTIN, TX 78705			STORK, KYLE R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2178	

DATE MAILED: 04/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/681,762	MCCULLOUGH, SEAN M.
	Examiner Kyle R. Stork	Art Unit 2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 January 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This final office action is in response to the amendment filed 19 January 2006.
2. Claims 1-25 are pending. Claims 24-25 are newly added. Claims 1, 12, 23 are independent claims. The rejection of claims 5-7 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. 112 has been withdrawn as necessitated by the amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-4, 8-15, and 19-23 remain and claims 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lerner et al. (US 6859909, filed 7 March 2000, hereafter Lerner).

As per independent claim 1, Lerner discloses a method of modifying a target document comprising:

- Accessing a target document, a metadata element, and a rendering instruction, wherein the target document comprises a target element (column 5, lines 9-32 and Figure 5: Here, a pointer to an original web based document (WBD) is stored in order to access a target document, which comprises a target element.

Further, a metadata element, in this instance, an annotation, is stored in an annotation record. Further, the rendering instruction for the metadata elements are stored in an image file containing the appearances of the metadata)

- Locating the target element to which the metadata element applies (Figure 5; column 5, lines 9-32: Here, the annotation record maintains a pointer to the target element that an annotation modifies)
- Transforming the metadata element into a rendered element by using the rendering instruction (Figure 5; column 5, lines 9-32)
- Displaying the rendered element in conjunction with the target element (Figures 8, 10, 15-16, and 18-19: Here, rendered metadata elements (annotations) are displayed in conjunction with the target elements (WBDs))

As per dependent claim 2, Lerner discloses the method further comprising calculating screen coordinates relative to the target document where the rendered element is to be displayed (column 6, line 64- column 8, line 20; column 8, lines 13-36: Here, the user is allowed to ink annotations over a document. This in turn causes the document to become frozen to prevent reflowing of the target elements (WBD). However, the annotation maintains the position of the inking relative to the target document).

As per dependent claim 3, Lerner discloses the method further comprising displaying the rendered element in conjunction with the target element at the screen coordinates (Figures 8, 10, 15-16, and 18-19; column 6, line 64- column 8, line 20).

As per dependent claim 4, Lerner discloses the method wherein locating further comprises matching a term within the metadata element with a corresponding term within the rendering instruction (column 9, line 58-column 10, line 36).

As per dependent claim 8, Lerner discloses the method further comprising inserting the rendered element into the target document (Figures 8, 10, 15-16, and 18-19).

As per dependent claim 9, Lerner discloses the method wherein, when after inserting, the rendered element overlays the target element and the target element can be seen at least partially through the rendered element (Figures 8, 10, 15-16, and 18-19).

As per dependent claim 10, Lerner discloses the method wherein a tag within the metadata element includes a locating information to locate the target element within the target document (column 6, line 64- column 8, line 20; column 8, lines 13-36; column 9, line 58-column 10, line 36).

As per dependent claim 11, Lerner discloses the method wherein the metadata element includes an identifier for the target document (Figure 5).

As per independent claim 12, the applicant discloses the limitations similar to those in claim 1. Claim 12 is similarly rejected.

As per dependent claim 13, the applicant discloses the limitations similar to those in claim 2. Claim 13 is similarly rejected.

As per dependent claim 14, the applicant discloses the limitations similar to those in claim 3. Claim 14 is similarly rejected.

As per dependent claim 15, the applicant discloses the limitations similar to those in claim 4. Claim 15 is similarly rejected.

As per dependent claim 19, the applicant discloses the limitations similar to those in claim 8. Claim 19 is similarly rejected.

As per dependent claim 20, the applicant discloses the limitations similar to those in claim 9. Claim 20 is similarly rejected.

As per dependent claim 21, the applicant discloses the limitations similar to those in claim 10. Claim 21 is similarly rejected.

As per dependent claim 22, the applicant discloses the limitations similar to those in claim 11. Claim 22 is similarly rejected.

As per independent claim 23, the applicant discloses the limitations similar to those in claim 1. Claim 23 is similarly rejected.

As per independent claim 24, the applicant discloses the limitations similar to those in claim 1. Claim 24 is similarly rejected.

As per independent claim 25, the applicant discloses the limitations similar to those in claim 1. Claim 25 is similarly rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 5-7 and 16-18 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lerner.

As per dependent claim 5, Lerner discloses the limitations similar to those in claim 1, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. Lerner further discloses the method wherein the rendered element is displayed instead of a target element (Figure 14 and 15A: Here, an annotation is inserted into the browser over the WBD. If the WBD is no longer displayed, then the flowchart ends).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have combined Lerner's method of displaying elements with Lerner's method of displaying the rendered element instead of the target elements, since it would have allowed a user to create notes in a blank document.

As per dependent claim 6, Lerner discloses the limitations similar to those in claim 5, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. Lerner further discloses the method wherein the rendered element includes a row or column of icons (Figure 8, item 820 and 825: Here, the rendered annotation element contains a row of icons).

As per dependent claim 7, Lerner discloses the limitations similar to those in claim 5, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. Lerner further discloses the method wherein:

- The target element includes numerical information (Figure 5, item 530; column 5, lines 19-21: Here, a target element contains a time/date stamp that specifies a time/date an annotation was created for the WBD)

- The rendered element includes a depiction of the numerical information (Figure 16: Here, a date is listed along the bottom of each annotated WBD)
- The depiction includes a representation of the numerical information in at least two dimensions (Figure 16)

As per dependent claim 16, the applicant discloses the limitations similar to those in claim 5. Claim 16 is similarly rejected.

As per dependent claim 17, the applicant discloses the limitations similar to those in claim 6. Claim 17 is similarly rejected.

As per dependent claim 18, the applicant discloses the limitations similar to those in claim 7. Claim 18 is similarly rejected.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 19 January 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that Lerner does not disclose modifying a target document (page 11). However, the examiner respectfully disagrees. The modified (annotated) WBD has a distinct URL allowing access to the document including annotations (column 5, lines 9-33). Since the original WBD is unable to be accessed from the URL, the annotations effectively modify the target document to be the modified (annotated) target document (WBD).

The applicant further argues that Lerner fails to disclose a metadata element (page 11). The examiner respectfully disagrees. Lerner discloses a metadata element,

an annotation that is stored in a record (column 5, lines 9-33). This metadata element describes the target element by providing further information about the element.

The applicant further argues that Lerner does not disclose locating a target element (pages 11-12). The examiner respectfully disagrees. Lerner discloses maintaining a list of x and y coordinates where the metadata (annotations) are drawn onto the WBD (column 5, lines 47-67).

The applicant further argues that Lerner fails to disclose rendering instructions (page 12); however, the examiner respectfully disagrees. Lerner discloses several rendering instructions associated with the metadata, including brush width, brush height, brush shape, color, and opacity (column 5, lines 47-67).

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyle R. Stork whose telephone number is (571) 272-4130. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kyle Stork
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2178

krs



STEPHEN HONG
ADVISORY PATENT EXAMINER